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January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

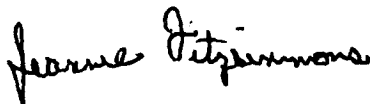
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Three years ago when Microsoft was first brought to trial, my fear was that the company would be split up and the American technology industry would begin to suffer. Now, a settlement has been proposed that would allow Microsoft to remain whole, and I believe that would be in the best interest of the consumer for the Justice Department to approve the settlement and move on.

I do support limits on Microsoft's conduct to safeguard our antitrust laws, but I think these restrictions are a bit harsh. Microsoft agreed to terms and conditions in the settlement that extend to procedures and technologies that were not found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals. Microsoft has agreed, among other things, to disclose source code and interfaces from the Windows operating system to its competitors for their use in developing Windows-compatible software. Microsoft has also agreed to license the Windows operating system to twenty of the largest computer makers at the same price. In the interest of wrapping up the case, Microsoft agreed to these and more terms, and I believe that, regardless of the harshness of certain obligations, it is better to settle now and let things get back to normal than to continue litigation and risk further economic damage.

This has gone on long enough, and it is time to move on. Microsoft has made the necessary changes to prevent further antitrust violations, and I do not believe further litigation is either necessary or constructive. I ask you to endorse the settlement.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Fitzsimmons

cc: Representative Jefferson Miller